

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RANGOO 00891 050145Z

71

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 EB-11 SWF-02 COME-00 SS-20 NSC-07

L-03 H-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 DRC-01 /113 W

----- 092106

R 040637Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7870

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 0891

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR PINT BM

SUBJECT: GUB CRACKDOWN ON FARMERS

REF: FBR-5665, APRIL 1, 1974

1. REF FBR REPORTS ARREST OF 600 FARMERS IN PEGU DIVISION FOR FAILURE TO SUPPLY FULL PADDY QUOTA TO GOVERNMENT AND SIMILAR ARRESTS IN MANDALAY DIVISION. EMBASSY SOURCES HAVE CONFIRMED THESE ARRESTS, AND PRESS HAS REPORTED ADDITIONAL ARRESTS IN OTHER AREAS. MARCH 30 PAPERS REPORTED ARREST OF NINE FARMERS IN IRRAWADDY DIVISION, AND APRIL 3 PRESS REPORTED 76 ARRESTS IN ONE TOWNSHIP IN DAGAING DIVISION. IN LATTER CASE, FARMERS WERE RELEASED FOLLOWING DAY AFTER UNDERTAKING TO SUPPLY DESIRED PADDY FROM THEIR OWN DOMESTIC RESERVEFLOR BY BUYING REQUIRED AMOUNT OF PADDY ON OPEN MARKET. IN SOME CASES, ARRESTED FARMERS REPORTEDLY HAVE NOT BEEN FED BY GOVERNMENT LIKE OTHER PRISONERS, BUT HAVE HAD TO RELY ON FAMILIES TO BRING THEM FOOD.

2. APRIL 3 PRESS CONTAINED ADDITIONAL WARNING THAT OFFICIALS ARE PREPARED TO CONFISCATE "FARM PROPERTIES, NAMELY FARMHOUSES, EQUIPMENT, PLOUGH CATTLE, RADIOS, SEWING MACHINES, BICYCLES, DAIRY COWS, ETC." AGAINST REPAYMENT OF OUTSTANDING AGRICULTURAL LOANS (MANY ADVANCED AGAINST REPAYMENT IN CROPS). ALTHOUGH SUCH

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 RANGOO 00891 050145Z

THREATS HAVE BEEN HEARD BEFORE, ARRESTS NOW GIVE THEM NEW

PLAUSIBILITY.

3. MAIN REASON FOR CRACKDOWN, OF COURSE, IS POOR PADDY COLLECTION TO DATE. SENIOR AGRICULTURE MINISTRY OFFICIAL REPORTED THAT AS OF APRIL 1 (WHEN PADDY PURCHASES SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED), GOVERNMENT HAD COLLECTED ONLY 70 MILLION BASKETS (1.43 MILLION LONG TONS) OUT OF OFFICIAL TARGET OF 120 MILLION. TARGET HAD BEEN SET LOW, AND GOVERNMENT ACTUALLY HOPED TO COLLECT 140 MILLION BASKETS. COLLECTION THUS AMOUNTS TO ONLY HALF OF EXPECTATION.

4. COMMENT: GUB HAS HERETOFORE BEEN CAUTIOUS ABOUT APPLYING PRESSURE TO FARMERS AND CURRENT WIDESPREAD ARRESTS ARE HARSHEST MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST FARMERS SINCE INDEPENDENCE. ARRESTS ARE MEASURE OF GUB'S DESPERATION OVER ITS INABILITY TO MEET BOTH EXPORT COMMITMENTS AND MINIMUM DOMESTIC DISTRIBUTION NEEDS. ARRESTS OF FARMERS DOUBTLESS CAUSING CONSIDERABLE BITTERNESS, AND SCATTERED INSTANCES OF RURAL VIOLENCE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING. EVEN IF NO IMMEDIATE REACTION TO GOVERNMENT'S CRACKDOWN OCCURS, LONG-TERM RESULTS MAY BE HARMFUL. AFTER CURRENT EXPERIENCES, FARMERS MAY IN COMING YEAR TRY TO DEVOTE MORE LAND TO UNCONTROLLED CROPS, RESORT TO SHORTCUTS SUCH AS BROADCAST SOWING (WHICH REDUCES BOTH COSTS AND OUTPUT), AND CURTAIL USE OF FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDES ON PADDY--WITH RESULTANT DECLINE IN BURMA'S RICE PRODUCTION
OSBORN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, RICE, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AGRICULTURAL WORKERS, ARRESTS, EXPORT QUOTAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974RANGOO00891
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740076-0719
From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740465/aaaachwg.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: FBR-5665, APRIL 1, 1974
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUB CRACKDOWN ON FARMERS
TAGS: EAGR, PINT, BM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005